REPORT OF THE CITY SUPERINTENDENT. Crry Superiorario arts Orrice, 3
New York, Dec. S., 1807.

To the Heavenhie the Beard of Educates:
In submitting this his fourth annual Report to the

Board, the undersigned cannot refrain from congratulating its members and their countitionts the presperous and flourishing condition of the Public Schools of the City and Councy of New-York. While searly every other public and private interest of our great metropolis has suffered to a greater or less ex-tent from the effects of the mexampled financial forando which has swept over us during the past year, our noble system of public instruction has safely aninjared outrode the storm. Enjoying, as it has done, and still does, to the fullest extent, the confidence of the public, endeared, as it has been and is, to the best and holiest affections of the entire community, and administered, as it has been and is, with the most scrupulous integrity and with earnest and disinterested desire on the part of its administrators to enable it to accomplish in the most efficient manner the great obdesire on the part of its administrators to enable it to accomplish in the most efficient minuner the great objects for which it was catabilited—the consucerial revalsion which prostrated so many political indices and paralyzed so many promising enterprizes, falled to undermine any portion of its broad foundations, or in any degree to shake its firm superstructure. Its spacious and convenient halls have continued to be filled with thousands of happy and intelligent children. The morning and evening song of praise and thanksgiving has duly gone up with unintermitted cheerfulness and joy from their young lips and hearts, and faithful and competent teachers have, without any interval, been successfully engaged in communicating to them the elementary principles of sound and useful knowledge, in imbuing their tender minds with correct principles of action and conduct, and in laying the foundations of future character and usefulness. The public funds appropriated and set apart for the accomplishment of these objects, in all their diversified details, have been initially applied to their destined use, and an equal amount has been cheerfully and ongrudgingly contributed from the tuxable resources of the city, for the continuance and extension of this cherished system of public and free education. New and spacious edities have arisen in resources of the city and spacious editices have arisen in sifierent portions of the city to supply the places of old and incremendious structures, whose walls have been found too straitened for the rapidly-expanding educational wants of the population within their vicinity, or to afford new accommodations for sections hitherto unprovided—several prunary schools and primary departments have been removed from comfortless and unwholesome basements, and furnished with convenient, healthy and commodicus apartments; and antiquated seats, desks and furniture have been replaced by modern improvements in this important with convenient, healthy and commodious apartments; and antiquated seats, desks and farniture have been replaced by modern improvements in this important and hitherto too much neglected department of education. The wages of well qualified and experienced teachers have been steadily though slowly and prudently advanced, in accordance as well with the corresponding advancement of all classes of labor, as with an intelligent appreciation of the importance of the duties demanded of them, and of the attainments and skill requisite to the efficient performance of the duties. The Free Academy, the several Normal Schools, and the Evening Schools, have been strengthened, their facilities for the communication of instruction expanded, enlarged and improved, and their means of usefulness proportionably extended. Fifty Ward Schools, each with three distinct departments, and sixty Primary Schools, diffused at convenient distances from each other throughout every portion of the city, have, during the past year, in conjunction with the ten corporate institutions participating in the public money, the Free Academy for boys, and the thirty Evening and four Normal Schools, afforded, to a greater or less extent, and for a longer or shorter time, the benefits and blessings of chication, in its various degrees, from the radioments of alphabetical instruction to the highest grade of code juide and university scholarship, to 140,000 pupils. The average regular attendance upon the several schools under the charge of the Board of Education during the entire achool year of eleven months, has been about 50,000. The whole amount of money expended during the year for teachers, wages, books, stationery, fuel, attendance, repairs, buildings, sites, and supervision, including all expenses of every name and nature pertaining to the administration of the entire system, was \$1,104,410 82, being a fraction under \$8 for each pupil under instruction for a longer or shorter period during the year.

The most accurate and reliable statistics, carefully gathered from the official records of our own and other countries, conclusively show that, imperfect and defective as our systeme of education confessedly are and have been—too generally confined in their widest scope to the mere communication of intellectual instruction, and even that, frequently, in the crudest form, and during only a very brief and intermitted period of time—they have, nevertheless, served to draw a clear, distinct and sharply-defined line between pauperism and crime on the one hand, and uprightness, intelligence, usefulness and an independent competency on the other. With scarcely a solitary exception, the immates of our Alme Houses and pauper asylums—institutions for the support of which we contribute annually a sum nearly equal to the entire expenses of our clucational system—are destitute of even an ordinary commonschool education—by far the greater portion of these being unable to read or write. This immense and burdensome drain upon the resources of the community might, it is clear, be dried up at its fountain by an ealightened system of general education brought bome to the doors of every child of penury and destitution. More than half of the immates of our prisons and penitentiaries of every grade are almost entirely destitute of the simplest radiments of education, and of the residue but a very inconsidera-Relations between Education and Crime of our prisons and penitentiaries of every grade are almost entirely destitute of the simplest rudiments of education, and of the residue but a very inconsiderable proportion have enjoyed the beactis of even the lowest common-school instruction. The closest and most searching analysis of the records of crime in our own city and State for the past twenty years will disclose the names of but very few individuals who have in early youth enjoyed the advantages of what, in accordance with the highest prevailing standard, may be denominated a good education. Of 1,132 persons, being the whole number reported by the Sheriffs of the different counties of this State as under conviction and punishment for crime during the year 1847, 22 only had received a "common education," Io only a "tolerably good education," and 6 only were reported as "well educated." Of 1,345 criminals so returned for the year 1848, 23 only had a common, 13 a tolerably good, and 10 only a good education. The whole number of persons returned to the office of the Secretary of State as having been convicted of crime in the several counties and cities of the State during a period of nine constitution of the state during a period of nine constitutions and cities of the State during a period of nine constitutions and cities of the State during a period of nine constitutions and cities of the State during a period of nine constitutions. as having been convicted of crime in the several coun-ties and cities of the State during a period of me con-secutive years, frem 1840 to 1848, both inclusive, was 27,949; of these 1,182 were returned as having re-ceived a "common education," 414 as having a "tol-erably good education," and 128 only as "well edu-cated." Of the remaining 26,225 only about one-half were able to read and write. The residue were desti-tute of any education whatever. Of 506 boys at pre-ent under confinement in the House of Refuge in this city, for offenses against the laws, 287, or considerably , for offences against the laws, 287, or considerably e than one-half, had attended school for a period more than one-half, had attended school for a period less than six months, and 95 only for a period exceeding three years. An examination of the Auburn State-Prison, made a few years since, gave, out of 244 prisoners, but 39 who could either read or write, and but 59 who could read well. In the Connecticut State Prison but onewell. In the Connecticut State Prison but half of the convicts, when committed, knew how to write. In the Philadelphia Penitentiary, out of 217 prisoners received on its organization in 1835, 85 only could read or write, and most of these could do se only could read or write, and most of these could do se only could read or write. could read or write, and most of these could do se only in a very imperfect manner. In the criminal statistics of France and England, it has been customary to divide the convicts into four distinct classes as it respects their degree of education or instruction: ist, those mable to read and write; 2d, those able to read and write imperfectly; 3d, those able to read and write well; 4, those superiorly instructed. In the former country, during a period of seven consentive years, the proportion of those embraced in the fauth class, as "superiorly instructed," was 227 to 9,772 in the three former classes. In Scotland, where the proportionate number of well-educated persons is much greater than in France, the proportion in 1836 of the fourth class to the other three was 188 to 9,812; while in England it was only 91 to 9,909. The whole numfourth class to the other three was 188 to 9.812; while in England it was only 91 to 9,909. The whole number convicted of crime in a single year in England and Wales was 20,984, of whom 7,633 were unable to read and write, 10,983 could read and write imperfectly, 2,215 could read and write well, while only 191 were superiorly instructed. In Scotland, out of 2,922 convicts during the same period, but 55 were enumerated in the latter class, and 2,539 in the three former. In the city of Manchester, England, the police returns for the first six months of the year 1842 show that 6,341 persone were taken into custody, of whom 4,617 could neither read nor write, and similar statistics are to be found in the police returns of Birmingham and Leeds for the same year. The proportion of the wholly uneducated adults in the various pauper establishments of England and America is substantially the same as those above enumerated in reference to conviction for crime.

yietion for crime.

So much for the actual relations which incontrovertible facts on both sides of the Atlantic have demonstrated to exist between education, even in its lowest and moet imperfect forms, and the annals of crime. These facts establish on the most competent testimony, the conclusion that considerably over one half of the The conclusion that considerably over one half of the immates of our prisons and penitentiaries are destitute even of the simplest radiments of communications, and that of the remaining half a very small proportion only have enjoyed the full advantages of such a system of education as her higherto pre-

vailed. They show, positively and clearly, that the ranks of crime and vice are almost exclusively recruited from the ignorant classes of community; and that precisely in proportion as knowledge is disseminated and education advanced, vice and erime recede. It must be borne in mind, in weighing these results, that the highest standard of education prevailing during the period to which they refer was far inferior, both in quantity and quality, to that which is now universally diffused emong us, and that we are lar, very far, from even attainable perfection in this respect.

Under this head the Superintendent remarks: The undersigned is of opinion, after much and careful reflection and investigation of the whole subject, that any radical change in the organization of this system would, at this time, be inexpedient and unwise; that it is uncalled for by any pressing necessity growing out either of any of its details in the abstract or of its practical administration, and that it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to substitute in its place, taken as a whole, a system capable of accomplishing an equal amount of good. The successful operation of any organized system depends far more upon the wisdom, prudenes and integrity with which it is administered, than upon the abstract perfection of its details. Indeed, perfection in this respect is conceded to be unattuinable; and a system which, however defective and imperfect it may be in some or even many of its provisions, is found upon the whole, and after many years' experience, satisfactorily to accomplish the substantial objects of its creation, and to fulfill the public expectations, should not lightly be subjected to the dangerous process of revision and reconstruction. The element of public confidence is of too great importance to be hazarded in an attempt to better that which already works well; and even if an undombted improvement could be substituted in its place, it night and probably would require many years to accustom those for whose benefit it was designed, and who are to carry if into practical operation, to the working of the new machinery. In the mean time the tried advantages of the existing system might be exchanged for a mere experiment, which, however specious and plantable in theory, might prove wholly mappineable in practice. There are no features in our existing system which, in the hands of engagement and conscience school officers, could not be rendered subservient to the best interests of education; and on the other hand, we may be confidently assured that in the hands of ignorant and corrupt dema Under this head the Superintendent remarks: The mainly and chiefly to guard against in the administra-tion of our system, either as it is or as it may here-after become, is the deleterious and fatal influence of political strife and party spirit, combined, as it too-often is, with personal corruption and reckless dis-honesty. When these elements enter the arena of our Public Schools, and force their way into the very sanctuaries of instruction, we may rest assured that the legislation, however wise, can long avert the final dissolution and abandonment of the structure thus miscrably represend from its ariginal design.

miserably perverted from its original design.

Course of Instruction.

There seems little room to doubt that the course of instruction prescribed by the Board for the several schools and departments under its charge is amply sufficient and extensive for all the purposes of a sound schools and departments under its charge is amply selicient and extensive for all the purposes of a sound practical education. The arrangements of the course; the proportionate time assigned to its several branches; the comparative predominance of certain studies over others; and the number of studies simultaneously pursued; all require, in the judgment of the undersigned, thorough and careful revision. Commencing with the alphabet and its combination into words and syllables, in the primary departments and primary schools, it extends through the various elementary branches of instruction, including reading, spelling, definitions, geography, grammar and arithmetic, mutil it reaches its termination, in the highest classes of the grammar schools, in the highest branches of history, astronomy, natural philosophy, physiology, bookkeeping, algebra and geometry. Dearwanship, drawing, embroidery, music, composition and declamation are common to all the departments. It is, moreover eminently due to both the teachers and pupils of our public schools generally, to say that these various branches are thoroughly and systematically taught, and their minutest details faithfully exceed he a very large proportion of the numis of these various branches are thoroughly and system-atically taught, and their minutest details faithfully mastered by a very large proportion of the pupils of both sexes. Repeated and most minute examinations of the several classes in all the departments in the presence of the school officers of the respective Wards, and large assemblies of gratified visitors have satisfactorily demonstrated the general efficiency, ex-tent and completence of the instruction communicated Wards, and large assemblies of gratified visitors have satisfactorily demonstrated the general efficiency, extent and completeness of the instruction communicated in these schools. It is not too much to say that in these respects our public schools will compare most favorably with the highest and most advanced private and corporate institutions of learning of a much higher nominal grade. Experience has, however, developed the existence of what are believed to be serious defects in the course thus prescribed, some of which have already been pointed out in previous reports from this Department, and the attention of the Board specifically directed to the importance and necessity of their removal. Noaction, however, having yet been taken in this direction, the subject is again respectfully and earnestly pressed upon the early regard of the only tribunal which can apply an adquate remedy. There is scarcely a class in either of the departments, or in the Primary School, which is not burdened with too many branches of study, and required, if it fulfill the requisitions of the Board, to devote to the acquisition of the lessons assigned, an amount of time and labor clearly at variance with the soundest principles of health, and physical and mental vigor. In the upper departments, it is by no means unusual to find individuals and classes pursuing, at the same time, from eight to ten, and even more, distinct branches of study, requiring for their adequate mastery and recitation from eight to ten, and even more destinct branches of study, requiring for their adequate mastery and recitation from eight to ten, and even more destinct and recitation from eight to ten bours of each day—a fearful and altogether unwarrantable over-tasking of the physical and mental energies of the youthful system. There can be no necessity, and there should be no excuse for thus crowding into a single term or a single year, an amount of study which could, far more profitably, be diffused over several, or even over the entire course. While, however, the standard adopted by the Board, calls for this in y pressure upon the time and faculties of the pupils, the degree of emulation which exists among the several schools, and the order to each of the pupils, and the argumt desire for excellence but the part of each, will tion which exists among the several schools, and the ardent desire for excellence on the part of each, will insure its existence at whatever hazard. Ambitious and faithful teachers will not consent that the classes under their charge shall come short of the attainments accomplished in other schools, or required by the Department of Public Instruction; and they will always find among their pupils, a large number of the brightest and most intelligent who will perseveringly second their exertions and respond to the utmost demands made upon their intellectual powers. The effects of such a continued tension upon the delicate structure of the expanding brain cannot be otherwise than disasterous. In the absence of all necessary or adequate the expanding brain cannot be otherwise than disasterous. In the absence of all necessary or adequate relaxation or physical exercise, this unremitting exertion of the mental faculties speedily induces the germs of disease, which, after a longer or shorter interval, accomplishes its fatal mission, in premature decay and death. Especially is this the case with female pupils, who are prevented by their positions in life and the usages of society from availing themselves of the nu-

who are prevented by their positions in life and the usages of society from availing themselves of the numerons opportunities of exercise and amusement which are open to the other sex.

In the case of children between the ages of six and sixteen—the period ordinarily spent in school—five or six hours of consecutive study and intellectual exertion daily are all that should, under any circumstances, be required. What cannot be accomplished, and thoroughly accomplished within that time, should be deferred. The soundest writers on education and physiology are inclined to regard even this amount of time devoted persistently to study as inconsistent with the requirements of the laws of health. The physical system demands relaxation, muscular exercise, active recreation; and the mental, frequent changes of study, intervals of undisturbed rest and sleep, and the constant renovation of all its powers and faculties. Our public school system, in its present shape, demands the confinement of the child within the inclosure of the walls of the school building for nearly six hours of each school day, the assiduous exercise of its mental faculties, with scarcely an interval of relaxation during that period, and then dismisses it home with the strict injunction to prepare for the ensuing day, tasks and lessons requiring three or four additional hours of severe study to accomplish. The time which should be devoted to rest, to relaxation, to sleep, is thus seriously and systematically invaded—the mental energies overtasked—and the very additional hours of severe study to accomplish. The time which should be devoted to rest, to relaxation, to sleep, is thus seriously and systematically invaded—the mental energies overtasked—and the very springs of life imperceptibly but steadily and sucely undermined. To wastever extent this permicious system prevails in our elementary and higher institutions of learning, it should be promptly discountenanced and authoritatively discontinued. This can be done only by such a modification of the entire course of study as will assign to the several branches a longer period of time for their accomplishment, thereby requiring a less amount of time to be daily devoted to each. In previous reports from this Department, the attention of the Hoard has been repeatedly called to what is believed to be the disproportionate share of time and study occupied by the mathematical branches, especially in the female departments. No disposition exists in any degree to undervaine the great importance of these branches as essential portions of a sound educational culture; but beyond a limited extent they do not in the practical details of a female life. English and American literature, ancient and modern history, satural philosophy and chemistry, natural philosophy and chemistry, natural philosophy and chemistry.

tien of a highly educated and accomplished woman than algebra, geometry, and trigonometry; while, comparatively a very small portion of the course is assigned to the former, and in many of the schools they are quite too imperfectly taught. The general grade and standing of the several classes are made to depend to an undue extent, in both the male and female departments, upon mathematical attainments; and consequently the great stress and burden of the instruction communicated is brought to bear upon these branches. A judicious discrimination in this respect should be made between the pupils of these two departments, and a just prominence allowed in both to other branches of equal practical importance in the future conduct of life. The whole subject of a revision of the course of study in all departments is again respectfully and earnessly commended to the early and mature consideration of the Board. tion of a highly educated and accomplished woman

the Board.

Moral and Religious Influences of the Schools.

Public attention having been recently and repeatedly directed to this subject, the present seems to be an appropriate accasion to correct misapprehension in reference to it, and by the exhibition of the simple facts of the case, to rescue our public school system from the unjust and unfounded imputations which have been preferred against it in this respect.

The allegation has been made in different and influential quarters, that the obligations and sanctions of the Christian religion are not only not recognized in our public schools, but that they are positively and directly excluded from the course of instruction by the express provisions of the law under which the system exists. It has been charged that open vice and immorality, and even the deepest and darkest shades of guilt and crime, are restrained only by appeals to general expediency and the fear of temporary punishment; that while the intellectual faculties have been sharpened and polished, the effect has been to enable the recipients of this species of instruction more skilfully and injectionally, and with greater impunity, to violate the laws of the land and trample upon all the obligations of religion and morality—and that the frightful increase of lawlessness, violence and crime which is apparent in our midst is attributable, to a very great extent, to the legalized absence in our institutions of public instruction, of religious teaching and Christian and moral discipline.

These are grave and serious charges—affecting, if well founded, the very constitution and structure of our public school system—holding it up to descrived reprobation as the nursery of open infedelity and public and private profligacy and corruption—and calling upon every good citizen, and every Christian parent, every friend to good order and virtuous principle, to discountenance its claims and pretensions, and to withdraw their children from

it up to deserved reprobation as the nursery of open infidelity and public and private profigacy and corruption—and calling upon every good citizen, and every Christian parent, every friend to good order and virtious principle, to discountenance its claims and pretensions, and to withdraw their children from its vicious and contaminating influences. We are, with all our shortcomings, our alarming and revolting assals of guilt and crime, and our excessive devotion to the accumulation of wealth, and the attainment of personal and political power and influence, essentially and in the main a noral and religious community—a community where the pure precepts and divine admonitions of Christianity are acknowledged and revered—where vice mail its shapes and forms is compelled to submit to the supremacy of virtue—where crime of every grade is not only discountenanced, but promptly and effectually repressed and punished—and where, from thousands of Christian homes, the incense of praise and thankagiving, the sublime teachings of the Word of God, and the solemn sanctions of another world are perpetually diffusing the highest and holiest influences which can adorn and elevate our common humanity. Is it then to be supposed, or for a moment tolerated, that we are assiduously cherishing in our midst a costly and well organized system of daily public instruction, in whose spacious halls more than one hundred through the characters, and lives are expected to be molded for time and for eternity, yet in which no vestige of the religious element's permitted to find a place—where the fundamental obligations of Christianity are not only unknown and untuaght, but authoritatively ignored—and where, while every effective sanction to integrity and morality is systematically evaluated,—apple and conservation of dishonesty, viliainy, profligacy and crime? The supposition amounts to a most serious and unjustifiable reflection upon the intelligence and good sense of a vast majority of our fellow-citizens. It is utterly absured, baseless and

dience and respect to parents, and the conscientious and uniform observance of all the requisitions of a pure Christian morality taught by precept and exam-ple. In all of them tile daily routine and discipline of the school are directly and powerfully adapted to the tude, neatness, punctuality, fidelity, industry, obe-dience, honor, truth, uprightness, deference to the wants, the rights, and conveniences of others, and t wants, the rights, and conveniences of others, and to the assiduous culture of the highest and noblest princi-ples of action and conduct in all the varied relations of life. This is the character of the teachings of our pub-lic schools; these are the agencies and instrumentali-ties in daily operation within their walls; and no in-fluences at variance with these, are permitted under any pretense to find access or gain a footing among them. Neither the mind nor the heart of the child cost, religiously and securally self-stand and discimost religiously and scrupulously trained and disci-plined in the donestic circle or the sanctuary of the church, is exposed to the slightest contamination by the instructions or discipline of the school; while the other hand, every lesson of pure Christian morality or ethics, communicated in either of the former, is strengthened and confirmed by the pervading instruc-

strengthened and contribute of the pervaning instruc-tions and influence of the latter.

The sole conceivable pretense for the unmeasured denunciation of our public school system to which allusion has been made, consists in the prohibition contained in the statute authorizing its establishment, against religious secturian instruction. This provision, so glaringly misconstrued and misunderstood, is

"No school shall be entitled to or receive any por "No school shall be entitled to or receive any per-tion of the school money, in which the religions doc-trines or tenets of any PARTICCLAR Christian or other religious sect shall be taught, inculcated or practised, or in which any book or books containing compo-sitions favorable or prejudical to the particular doc-trines or tenets of any particular Christian or other religious sect, or which shall teach the doctrines or tenets of any other religious sect, or which shall refuse to permit the visits and examinations provided for in this act.

this act.

"But nothing herein contained shall authorize the Board of Education to exclude the Holy Scriptures, exthout note or comment, or any selections therefron, from any of the schools precided for in this act: but it shall not be competent for the said Board of Education to decide what version, if any, of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, shall be used in any of the schools; provided that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to violate the rights of conscience as secured by the Constitution of this

contained shall be so construed as to violate the rights of conscience as secured by the Constitution of this State and of the United States."

The whole import of this provision is to exclude from the schools every species of mere denominational or sectarian interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. Nothing, it would seem, could be more justifiable or proper than such an enactment, in the case of public schools where the children of parents of every refigious denomination are gathered together on one common platform of intellectual and moral improvement. The "Holy Scriptures, without note or comment," are

"Holy Scriptures, without note or comment," are recognized as of the highest validity and authorize, by all denominations of religious worshipers; and the equal right of Roman Catholics and Jews to make use of their own authorized "versions" of these Scriptures, or to forego their use altogether in the public schools where their children attend, is expressly reserved. It constituted no part of the object or pursue for which these institutions were corranged and reserved. It constituted no part of the object or pur-pose for which these institutions were organized and endowed by the State and the city, to teach the pecu-liar denominational views of any portion of professing Christians, Catholic or Protestant, of of any other religious creed. Each and all of these sects possess the most abundant facilities of their own for the attainment of this object, whenever it may be deemed

All, however, were deeply interested in the incules tion of those great fundamental principles of revealed religion contained in the pages of the inspired volume from which all and each derived their faith, and in acfrom which all and each derived their faith, and in ac-cordance with which they regulated their differing modes of worship. The children of all and each could derive most important benefits, while none could pos-sibly be injured, by the sublime precepts and heavenly teachings of the Bible "without note or comment." The elequent and glowing words of "Him who spake

as man never spake," the magnificent poetry and rapt inspiration of the Prophets and the Psalms, the deep and far-reaching wisdom of the Proverbs, the simple and trathful chronicles of the earliest historians of the race, and the epistolary admonitions of the venerable Fathers of the Christian church, might well and safely be trusted to win the hearts, purify the lives and direct the conduct of the young, without being mingled with innumerable diverse and contradictory glosses and interpretations by those who, however homestly and conscientiously, radically differed in their judgments and conclusions. Such interpretations and comments were clearly out of place there, wherever else they might be deemed useful or necessary. No word or hint from the teacher was thought proper to be allowed in any manner to weaken, disturb or undermine the peculiar religious views of any sect or denomination, while all might be permitted and encouraged reverently to listen to those oracles of their common faith, upon which all those views were based, and around which clustered all their hopes for time and for eternity. And yet, because this wise and most discreet limitation was interposed by the lawgiver—because the zealous and perhaps intolerant devotee of some one or all of the numerous and differing forms of religious faith and worship, could not be allowed to convert the halls of public instruction into an arena of ecclesiastical disputation; because the mysteries of transubstantiation on the one hand, and the endiess controversies concerning "fate, free-will, and knowledge absolute," on the other, could not be transferred from the pulpit and the lecture-room to a teacher's desk and a class-room; the alarming proclamation is made throughout the land, that our noble system of Public Schools—the pride

other, could not be transferred from the pulpit and the lecture-room to a teacher's desk and a class-room; the alarming proclemation is made throughout the land, that our noble system of Public Schools—the pride and the ornament of our State and city, the key-stone of the arch of our civil and social institutions—is tainted with infidelity, and utterly unworthy of public confidence or private regard. Is it wise—is it just—is it right, for those whose high position and commanding abilities invest them with extended influence over a large portion of the community in which they live, thus to seek to undermine the broad foundations of our individual and social security? In the face of facts such as have been collated in a previous portion of this report, and the evidences of which are easily accessible to every inquiring mind, is it fair to charge upon our Public Schools the fearful array of violence, bloodshed and crime, which easts a deep shadow upon the civilization which surrounds us? Where are the convicts who have been reared under the influence of our Public Schools, or who have attended upon their ministrations for any considerable length of time! How many and who of the millions of pupils whose names have been enrolled on the list of regular attendants upon these institutions during the past fifty years, or of the hundred thousands now participating in their instruction and discipline, have been convicted or even accused of offenses against property or person, or of any crime in the catalogue of felonies punishable with imprisonment or death? Where is the evidence upon which a charge so serious and explicit is based? Its production is confidently challenged, and its existence unhesitatingly denied.

Equally confidently and unhesitatingly denied.

Equally confidently and unhesitatingly as the allegation denied that the Public School system either of the State or city is responsible as well for what it has failed to accomplish in the education of the entire population, to whom its doors were freely opened, a Committee was then put and concurred in by 16 to 0.

YFAS—Wilson, Corwin, Harris, Hoffmire, Clancy, Banta,
Grifith, Steers, McCounell, Moneghan, Fullmer, Coulter, Valentine, McSpedon, McCoukey and Drake—18.

NAYS—Adams Tucker Jackson Bluut and Owen—5.

The paper was sert directly to the Mayor for his signature, and the Board took a recess for thirty minutes.

AFTLE RECESS.

The Board met again at 4 p. m., and resumed business. Several reports to relieve parties from assessments were passed.

The City Hall Question.—Ald, Owens moved to
take up the report, made in April last, to fix on Madi-

The City Hall Question.—Ald Owns moved to take up the report, made in April last, to fix on Madison square as a location for a City Hall.

Ald, Jackson seconded the motion, and thought it was due to the Mayor, who had sent a Message on the subject, that the question be settled one way or the other. State of city is responsible to accomplish in the education of the entire population to whom its doors were freely opened, as for what i has actually done. Neither the officers nor agents o these schools and systems have been invested will any authority to bring within their supervision those who did not voluntarily choose to place them Motion to take up lost by a tie vote—11 to 11.

Contract Arrangements.—Ald. Drake called up a report of the Commistee on Roads in favor of the Street Commissioner making an additional arrangement with the contractor, Mr. Masterson.

Ald. Tucker opposed the measure as one of those flagrant outrages sought to be imposed on tax payers without authority of law. The Contractor had got several extensions of time, and in 1854 and 1855, he was on a committee investigating into some of his work. who did not voluntarly encourage were and have been invitingly open and free to every child in the community, rich or poor, high or low, virtuous or vicious. They have undertaken the responsibility of bestowing upon each child, fully availing himself of the facilities thus afforded, a sound, practical, Christian education, and to this high responsibility they should be rigidly held. But they have not undertaken, nor had they the power to undertake, the compulsory education of any child—nor can they, with any pretension to justice, be held responsible for the vices or the guilt of those who have never, or only for brief and intermitted periods of time, been placed under their instruction. There is, however, a learful and solemn assponsibility resting upon those who poswas on a committee investigating into some of his work.

Ald. Drake withdrew the motion.

The City Hall question again.—Ald. Jackson called for this subject again, and his motion to take up was carried by 13 to 9. These were two reports, one in favor of the Hall being in Madison square, and the other in favor of the Chambers street-side of the Park.

Ald. Coulter moved to adopt Madison square.

Ald. Jackson spoke in support of an up-town City Hall, giving as a reason that it would be beneficial to the city at large and the wish of a large majority of citizens. To erect more public buildings in the Park would be building up Brooklyn and Jersey City, and no benefit to the upper part of this city; while a City Hall in Madison square would benefit the different sections of the city alike—the First Ward as well as the Twelfth Ward. A City Hall up town would also, in his opinion, keep many persons as residents in the city who are apt to go to Long Island and New-Jersey. The new arrangement proposed to remove the steamboat landings up town would secure wharf room, and this removal was another reason why a central City Hall should be built. Such a movement the populalation were entitled to, and, if possible, he would also have the Custom-House up town. In regard to the possibility of a consolidation of Brooklyn and New-York, a City Hall to meet any such addition could at the proper time be built; but he did not believe in legislatting for Brooklyn, as had been done here for many years. That city had recently improved fifty per cent more than New-York, and he was gland of its rapid growth; but he was opposed to its increasing at the expense of New-York.

Ald. Blunt said the majority report in favor of the Park had for its aim the benefit of the city. It was ev dent to every one who had public business in New-York that the Park, although in the lowest part of the city, was with all the main avenues verging thereto, the most central location. Here was where we wanted the City Hall for business, and if the up-town people w any precession to just of those who have never, or only for brief and intermitted periods of time, been placed under their instruction. There is, however, a fearful and solemn respinsibility resting upon those who possess both the power and the means for securing the universal education of the future members of the community, and who have hitherto neglected and still continue to neglect to make such provision effectual. With the experience of ages before them, all pointing in the same direction, and all combining to demonstrate the intimate connection between ignorance and crime—with the moral certainty staring them in the face, that the idle and the dissolute, the darkened and benighted intellects of to-day will become the paupers or the criminals, the robbers, the incendiaris, the burglars or the murders of to-morrow. With the full knowledge that the streets and avenues of our great cities and towns are swarming with the rapidly ripening elements of wretchedness, and vice, and crime, and with the undoubted and clearly deducible power, even as a measure of self-defense and in the exercise of the most obvious means of salutary prevention, to arrest the further progress of this desolating plague and to convert into a fertile source of blessing by a comprehensive and well-devised system of universal education. The legislators of the Commonwealth yet shrink from the discharge of their imperative duty in this respect, and vainly and ineffectually hope to accomplish the work of reform by penal enactments and vindictive punishments? These are the men, and not the efficers oragents of our public schools, who may legitimately be held responsible, not alone for the consequences and results of what they have done, but for what, having the power and means to do, they have left undone in the intellectual and moral training of the youth of the State.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted, S. S. RANDALL. City Sup't.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN THURSDAY, Dec. 31 .- Aid. JOHN CLANCY, President, in the chair. The Board met at 11 p. m. Sundry small bills of doctor ctors for attending at Station-

Sunary small bills of occors for attending at Station-Houses were considered and passed.

The Proposed Purchase of Ward's Island Property.

The report to purchase the Ward's Island Property owne dby A. McCotter, came up and was read, after which Ald. Tucker moved to lay it on the table. Reports Adopted-To confirm Assessment List for

Carried.

Reports Adonted—To confirm Assessment List for the Sewer in Fifth avenue, from One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth street to Harlem River. To limit tax on property of D. H. Haight. To pay John A. Towle \$250 for extra services attending committes. To pay J. B. Bacon \$250 for preparing map of Chatham and Nassau streets. To pay John Mack \$100 for loss of horse owing to Corporation carelessness. To appropriate \$1,500 to fit up and alter the Council Chamber. To appropriate \$1,500 to defray the expenses of the Post-Office Committee to Washington.

The Manual—A resolution was adopted directing D. T. Valentine, eag., to prepare the Manual for 1857, and appropriating \$1,500 therefor.

The Ward's Island Purchase lands of A. McCotter on Ward's Island, the purchase to be left to arbiters; one to be appointed by the Mayor, and the other by Mr. McCotter, to fix on the price.

Ald. Blusy was surprised to hear this paper called up the last day of the session, and moved tax; it be laid on the table.

Ald. Turker opposed the purchase, and contended

laid on the table.

Aid. TUCKER opposed the purchase, and contended that, by the means proposed, the purchase would never be made to the advantage of the city. The party having the land should have stated his price, and made an offer. We had enough of Ward's Island purchases in 1852, when a most outrageous swindle was perpetruted, and, in his opinion, this case would be a parallel. We had enough of the Mayor's appointing arbiters, for such persons were always like the handle of a jug, one-sided. The city did not want this ground either; it had more on Ward's Island now than it would require is fifty years. this ground either; it had more on Ward's Island now than it would require in fifty years. Ald. Jackson moved to strike out that part which

Ald. Jackson moved to strike out that part which made the decision of the arbiters binding, and insert that the Mayor have the power to approve or disapprove of any bargain settled on by said parties.

Ald. Techer opposed any reference to arbiters. The City in making a reference, would surely be wronged. There was no occasion for any action at present: the City did not want the property now. The project was a "bad eng," and he hoped it would be postponed. Ald. Jackson said the decision, by his amendment, would have to be made by the new Mayor, and as his honor was well acquainted with the wants of the City, there would be no danger of the City being wronged. Ald. Adams hoped the Common Council as well as the Mayor would have to decide on the arbiter's bargain.

gain.

Mr. Wilson spoke in favor of the report. He was

Mr. Wilson spoke in favor of the report. He was Chairman of the Committee who made the report, and had inquired into the necessity of purchasing the land. The land, he contended, was required by the city; and he was unwilling that the bargain should be made in any other way. He hoped the amendment would not prevail.

Ald. Jackson renewed his amendment, and thought

under it the city would be safe.

Ald. Tucker remarked that he was well satisfied

Aid. TUCKER remarked that he was well satisfied the referee was already chosen, and that he would be appointed by Mayor Wood, immediately after the adjournment of this Board. This led him to oppose the measure more streamously, and he would be anwilling to have it passed with any amendment. He thought it should go to the next Board.

Aid. Adams renewed his amendment to make the decision subject to the Mayor and Common Council.

Aid. Abase renewed his absolute in make the decision subject to the Mayor and Common Council, Aid. Blust said he had no doubt if this report passed, the referee would be appointed to-day, and the bargain probably made and approved by the Mayor, all in the course of a few hours. There was

another objection; the Board could not pass this paper in consequence of there being no money appro-priated for the purpose. He hoped it would be laid

ther.

Motion to take up lost by a tie vote—11 to 11.

and of the city, they could also di

patch any business they might have in the Courts of with the City Government. It was not the center of

a city that was the most central in such matters, and it was clear that the Park would always be the place

Ald. FULLMER spoke for the up-town location. He

Ald. FULLMER spoke for the up-town location. He heped the next city legislators and officials would be so pure, that they would need no law courts; but he thought the City Government, if removed to Madison square—getting away so far from the Five Points and the Park fountain nuisances, it would—undergo a vast improvement, and not even the press would suspect it of doing wrong. We should have then a pure Common Council and a pure Mayor.

Ald. CLANCY spoke for the interests of the lower section of the city. He did not blame the up-town members in advocating Madison square, but it was evident their ardor exceeded their judgment. By legislative enactment last Winter, the Park was fixed as the location for the New City Hall, and nothing

some up-town felks. There was Schuyler, the John Dean affair, and other matters, that the Five Points

vas carried.

The main question was then put when the paper was

Ald. Owens moved to lay on the table and print,

views upon the question. It was, in his opinion, the blackest thing yet brought up and he moved to lay in on the table. Lost.

Ald. McConnell moved to put the previous ques

over.

Ald. Jackson thought the idea of Ald. Blunt, as to the intention of the matter being so fixed, could not be carried out. It was a thing impossible.

Ald. Jackson said he would move to insert Daniel F. Tiemaan, Mayor elect, but he knew that could not be done.

The PRESIDENT said he could not entertain such a motion.

Ald Wilson renewed his argument to the effect

pers-Ald. Hoffmire, the Cheirman, having kept them and himself absent. Ald. Owens protested against the Board acting co

pers—Ald. Hoffmire, the Cheirman, having hegt them and himself absent.

Ald. Owens protested against the Board acting co hastily. He supposed, if the paper was adopted to-night, it would immediately be signed by the Mayor and become a law. Some of the members, not exporting the question up, had not time to examine it.

Ald. McSrenos spoke in favor of the paper being adopted. If it was right, and he thought it was, he hoped to see it adopted, even if it was the last night of meeting. The question had been a standing matter on which dinners had been procured for that time, and a gentleman in the lobby had paid for them. He had asked what such festivities meant, and was load it was the bones of Trinity. Trinity Church showed how little they cared for the dead when they removed the bones where the new building now stands. The Church did not care for or respect the bones of its dead, and he thought the Common Council should not be led from this measure of improvement by false sympathy. He hoped the lobby agent, so busy kere young the model of they did not do certain things here to night they would be indicted. He hoped the Board would show that they cared not for such threats, by voting as their judgment led them.

Ald. Adams also denounced lebby influence, and blamed Ald. Hoffmire, the Chairman, for locking up the papers and declining to act in the mainer. The opening, in his opinion, was highly necessary.

Ald. Banta said he had neticed a great deal of its Board to blame in not making a report on the subject.

Ald. Banta said he had neticed a great deal of its Board to blame in not making a report on the subject.

Ald. Banta said he had presented more than a care-load of petitions against the oxtension, and of these nearly three fourths were from property-owners in the immediate vicinity of the proposed opening.

Ald. Steens spoke in favor of the opening, and he did not know that the parties opposed had been notified to appear before the Committee of the theats, if any had been made.

Ald. Hexar said he had presen notion.

Ald. Witson renewed his argument to the effect Ald: Witson renewed his argument to the effect that the city was suffering for more land, and if the Ward's Island property was not bought, some lands for city purposes would have to be obtained on Long Island. He complained of Ald. Tucker and Blunis objections to the honesty of the present Mayor, and did not see what reason they had to make any such insinuation. The Board was fully capable to decide on the question, and he heped it would be acted upon premptly. on the question, and he hoped it would be acted upon premptly.

Ald. Adams again referred his motion to amend by leaving the final decision of the Mayor and Common Council after the decision of the arbiters.

Ald. Monkearas objected to this; it looked as if the Democratic members had lost all confidence in the present Mayor. He had not yet lost that confidence and hoped the report would be adopted as it stood.

Ald. Jackson said he did not see the necessity of any member putting in this defense. There was no direct insinuation as to the Mayor's integrity, except from Ald. Tucker, and he could not even see any reflections in his language.

Ald. Blust thought it strange that Mr. McCotter did not know the value of his land. He hoped, however, that the amendment of Ald. Adams, which he thought a saving clause, would be adopted.

The amendment was put and lost by 13 negative and 7 affirmative.

Ald. McConnell moved the previous question.

Ald. McConnell moved the previous question.

Ald. Blust objected to choking down the debate and sentiments of the members on this important subject. The motion was not in order, and he would appeal from the decision of the chair (Ald. McSpedon, who had been in the chair here left, and the president resumed his seat). The decision of the chair was sentimed. austained.

Ald. Tucker moved to lay the previous question on the table, which was lost by a vote of 14 to 6.

The main question on the report as made by the Committee was then put and concurred in by 16 to 5.

he same vote:

TEAS—Corwin, Harris, Healy, Clancy, Adams, Banta, Criffiths, Steers, McConnell, Moneghan, Coulter, Valentine, Mospedon, and McConley.

NAYS—Wisson, Hofmire, Jackson, Blunt, Teker, and Owens, The Tax Levy.—The Tax levy, as amended on Tuesday night, came up and was read.

Ald. Adams moved that the appropriation of \$10,000 for the Tenth Ward Station-House be struck out, as there was no need of a new one. The ground

\$10,000 for the Tenth Ward Station-House be struck out, as there was no need of a new one. The ground was wanted for the purpose of a County Jail. Motion lost by 17 to 3.

Ald. McSpenon moved to add \$19,500 for skeam fire engines. Carried. He then stated that he had been handed a memorandum and estimate from the Department of Streets and Lamps. The appropriation, he was told, was deficient. He moved to insert. \$46,300 instead of \$31,000, which was carried.

The report was then put and concurred in by a vote of 18 to 3, Ald. Blunt, Tucker and Owens in the negative.

negative.
Commissioners of Deeds. - Ald. McCoskey moved

Commissioners of Deeds.—Ald. McCoskey moved to appoint a Conference Committee to meet a Committee of the Connellmen in relation to the appointment of Commissioners of Deeds.

Ald. FULLBER opposed it, and thought the Councilmen should have concurred with the report of this Board. After debate the matter was withdrawn.

The Washington Market Matter.—Ald. Adads said he was one of a Committee to investigate the charges of Mr. O'Rielly in relation to the Washington Market charges, and had found that said charges were groundless. There was nothing in them, as the other members of the Committee, be thought, would bear time out.

out.

Aid. Drake concurred in this, and descussed the complaint made by O Rielly as a fabrication intended for black mail.

On motion the subject was laid over indefinitely.

On motion the subject was laid over indeficitely.

Communication from Charles Devlin.—A communication was received from Charles Devlin, in answer to Mr. Busteed's letter, in which he holds that he supposed that when the Common Council passed an ordinance reorganizing the Street Department, the salary of the Street Commissioner was increased to \$5,000, and he was of the impression that Mr. Busteed so understood it in not making objections to the suit.

This was ordered printed.

Ald. Harrits offered a resolution to refund Charles D—lin \$1,300 and his Denuty \$1,100, amonats re-

Police Clerk Convention—The Board adopted a resolution to mention to reliable to the Controller for salarise. This was ared out of order and laid over.

Police Clerk Convention—The Board adopted a resolution to meet the Mayor in Convention this evening, another police clerk.

and appoint another police clerk.

Closing Ceremones.—A resolution tendering the thanks of the Board to the President and Clerks was

speech, returning warm thanks for their constens; bearing toward him during the year.

A committee was appointed to wait on the Genneilmen, and inform them that the Board was prepared to adjourn. The committee reported that a committee of the Councilmen would wait upon this Board annadiately.

of the Councilmen would wan upon the diately.

The minutes were read and approved.

The Councilmen's Committee arrived, and Councilmen Henry Smith informed the President that the Board had nothing to communicate and would adjourn

at 10 o'clock.
On motion the Board then adjourned size dis.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

THURSDAY, Dec. 31.—Mr. REYNOLDS in the char.
The Board was to have met at 1 p. m., but at 1½
ock, a quorum not being present, Mr. Monromoved that the Board adjourn sine die. Mr. CLARK hoped the chair would not extertain the Mr. REYNOLDS, the temporary occupant of the chair,

fused to notice the motion.

Mr. Van Ting moved that Mr. Monroe be allowed

oretre from office.

Mr. REYNOLDS put the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Mondor declined to avail himself of the privilge. He intended to watch their proceedings and ege. He intended to watch their proceedings and the close.

A quorum arrived soon after, and the lobby being full, the Board proceeded to business. The minutes in regard to the alleged contempt of Messre. Kennard,

rady and Ottarson, were corrected and adopted. Mr. Clark moved to purge Mr. Warner from e

mpt. Mr. WARNER defended himself from the charge of contempt, and characterized the conduct of the Pres-dent in declaring him under contempt, as high-handed,

The CHAIR called Mr. Warner to order, and asked f he had any apology to make.

Mr. Warnen replied that he could not apologize, having committed no offense. He was the party

legislative enactment last Winter, the Park was fixed as the location for the New City Hall, and nothing that could be done by the Common Council could after that bill. He thought the reasons for a City Hall uptown, advanced by Ald. Fullmer, very peculiar, and very far from a good argument. The purity he had premised to secure to the City Government, he thought very inconsistent, for he had heard strange things of some up-town folks. There was Schuyler the donn aggrieved.

The Chain ordered him to take his seat. He did
so, protesting against the injustice of the proceeding.
The metion to purge the member of the Fourteenta

was then carried. Mr. WARNER rose to a privileged question. He

Dean aftar, and other matters, that the restriction could not equal.

Ald. McSpernos expressed himself much edified by the debate. He hoped however, that members would confine themselves to the subject of the City Hall location. This report, if adopted, would be but a mere expression of the feeling. Enough had been said on the matter, he thought, and he would move the pre-Mr. WARNER rose to a proved of the minutes be reconsidered, from the fact that of the members declared under arrest, a portion of the names had been omitted. He moved that all of the parties in contempt be recorded on the minutes.

Mr. Ottarson, without desiring to cast any reflection.

the matter, he thought, and he vious question.

Ald. Witson moved to lay the motion on the table, when it was withdrawn.

Ald. Jackson speke again in answer to Ald. Claney, and closed by renewing the previous question, which Mr. Ottakson, without desiring to cast any reflection upon the President, considered that the fact that a large number of the minority had been placed under arrest for endeavoring, by legitimate means, to defeat an unjust measure, as a very disgraceful proceeding. When the majority found that they could not force this measure on account of the opposition of the minority, they choked them down, gagged, and bound them, and then adopted the ordinance. For his part them, and then adopted the ordinance. For his part, he was glad that his opposition was taker so much to heart, that it was deemed necessary to slence him by an extreme application of the rules. The fact that the ordinance had passed the Commisee of the Whole, while the minority were deprived of a voice, would go before the public, in all its deforably, and each actor would be judged according to his deserts. If the ordinance should pass the Board the minority would wash their hands of it altogether.

For his part, in such a sase he felt that the record was an honor, and not a Asgrace to him, and although willing to stand alone upon that platform, yet he would not deprive his collesques of the privilege of occupying the same position. The Extension of Albany Street.—The report to extend Albany street through Trinity Church-yard was called up by Ald. Healy. Motion carried by 11

which was lost.

Ald. Adams moved to suspend the order of business to appoint a Committee of Conference in relation to Commissioners of Deeds. Lost.

Ald. Heart moved to concur with the report of the Councilmen to extend Albany street to Broadway. The paper was read. It resolved to repeal the stay of proceedings in the opening of said street.

Ald. Bits rentended that two-thirds or three-fourths of the property holders were opposed to the opening, and to force it through in this way, would be cliegal. It would be like Reade street, and put the city to \$10,000 or \$20,000 expense for no purpose. It was an outrageous measure, and rendered still more so by being brought up at the last night of the session. He had, when in the Board before, been on a Special while to same position.

Mr. Kernard hoped the motion would prevail, as the misutes were evidently grossly incorrect.

Mr. Boole said that the reasons why the minority wasted to have the minutes amended was, to vitate the proceedings of Wednesday evening. He should cote against it.

Mr. Ottarson pointed out a further error in the minutes. Messrs. Kennard, Brady and Ottarson were recorded as voting in the negative on the reception of the report of the Committee of the Whole, when they did not vote, and the minutes showed that they were under arrest and could not vote.

Mr. Brady said that the minutes were printed incorrectly for the purpose of helping the majority to legalize their action. But the truth was, aminting the members under arrest, there were only 29 members present, and the proceedings were therefore clearly flegal. He had, when in the Board before, been on a Special Committee on the subject and understood it well. No Committee on the subject and understood it well. So such improvement was necessary, and it violates one of the oldest church-yards in the city.

Ald. Witson also opposed the opening. It was not proper, he thought, to adopt a report of the Councilmen without a committee of this Board giving their without a committee of this position, the

Ald. McConnect moved to put the fitting, which was lost.

Ald. Tucker said he was in favor of the opening as an improvement; but this was not the time, the last day of the session, to bring it up. If it was urged, he would, therefore, vote against it.

Ald. Healy said the reason the Committee of this Board had not reported was that they had not the palegal.

The motion to reconsider and amend the minutes

was then put and lost.

A remonstrance by D. Apple on and others, against appropriating a site in the Park for the New Fost-Office, was received and laid over.

The report of the Committee conversing with the